

JOSEPH CONTEGIACOMO

Growing up in Brooklyn, but spending many summers on a small farm on LI, Joe learned to appreciate the natural wonders of LI. His fondest memories of LI are of playing baseball on the Republic Aviation ball field in Farmingdale, exploring the expansive woodlands with his cousins and using a hand pump to draw the best tasting, coldest water.

After his service in the US Air Force, Joe purchased a home in NHP, where he and his wife Elene have lived for more than forty years, and raised their three daughters. Joe owned and managed a very successful floral business in Queens for almost three decades. His love of nature and art were balanced by a passion for technology. After retiring from the floral industry, he went back into technology, recently retiring from the Capital One Information Technology department where he was part of its energy conservation program.

While stationed overseas in the Air force, Joe witnessed how people in other countries had considerably less waste than here in the US. With that in the mind, he has consciously tried to make ecofriendly choices throughout his life. Joe has taken strides to "Go Green" as he wants a cleaner world for his children and grandchildren. He feels that there are many small ways everyone can help our environment on a daily basis, such as using reusable grocery bags, recycling and walking to local areas rather than always hopping into cars.

Personally over the past 3 years, Joe has invested in a 7.2 KW solar panel system for his home and an all-electric car; both have cut down his cost of living, as well as considerably reduced his family's carbon foot print. He is pioneer in LIPA/PSEG Long Island's Energy Efficiency Program helping conserve power during high usage times. He has also planted an organic vegetable garden, which not only provides healthy foods for his family, but also produces oxygen and is a relaxing way to get some exercise. Joe is also part of the Rain Barrel and Compost programs and is proud to say that 2/3 of his disposables are now being recycled. He uses only organic lawn fertilizers, wanting to do his part to protect our limited water supply and has begun planting additional trees on his property to help restore the disappearing LI canopy and preventing possible hotspots.

Joe is committed both to his family and to NHP. He is a long-time active member of the North Lakeville Civic Association and has worked hard for the betterment of his community and the environment.